

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH WRITES TO N.F.L. LEADERS

Hanoi, May 8, 1968

To President Nguyen Huu Tho,
To Members of the N.F.L. Central Committee,

UNDER the clarified leadership of the N.F.L. our South Viet Nam compatriots, fighters and cadres, have, since early Spring this year, been mounting the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings with great efficiency and winning tremendous victories.

Upholding revolutionary heroism and combining armed attacks, political struggle and propaganda among enemy troops, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have:

- inflicted defeats on the 1.2 million enemy troops including the over 500,000-strong U.S. forces;
- fought victorious engagements both in the towns and the countryside, and launched shipboard attacks on enemy bases, airfields, ports, storages and communication lines;
- liberated many more vast and densely populated areas;
- been engaged in the fighting while building up their strength which accounts for the unusually vigorous growth of both their military and political forces.

— done equally very well in implementing the policy of the N.F.L., the armymen devotedly defending and assisting the people, the people giving the armymen their unwavering love, helping them, and side by side with them fighting the aggressors.

For the last few days the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, from the Quang Tri — Thua Thien area to the Point of Co Mau, from the plateau to the highlands, have again launched concerted onslaughts on the U.S. puppet troops, recording considerable successes and inflicting on the enemy heavier defeats and increasing their persistency and confusion.

So all the armed forces and the entire people of heroic South Viet Nam—old and young, women and men, the Kinh people (main ethnic group in Viet Nam—Ed.) and the Highland people, the main masses as well as the regional army and the militia and guerrilla forces, have all achieved outstanding feats of arms. The whole South Viet Nam is fighting successfully, gaining more strength and winning greater victories in the process.

I feel greatly gratified at this state of things, and request you, Mr. President and the members of the N.F.L.C.C., to convey my most affectionate wishes and warmest congratulations to all our South Viet Nam countrymen and to all the officers and men of the patriotic armed forces on all battlefields. I send my greetings to all patriotic personalities, all elders, all armymen's foster mothers. I commend the youth and young pioneers' zeal in resisting U.S. aggression and saving the country, their numerous exploits.

The victories won by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are tremendous and all-round ones which fill with joy our people across the country and our friends on all the five continents. The resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation put up by our entire people is making and is heading steadily for complete victory.

Our people have peace at heart. But there cannot be genuine peace unless there is independence and freedom. Peace will come soon after the U.S. imperialists have put an end to their war of aggression in Viet Nam, brought home all their troops, and made up their minds to leave the Vietnamese people to decide themselves their own destiny.

At present the U.S. imperialists are suffering severe setbacks in Viet Nam, and are finding themselves in a state of isolation and confusion, both at home and in the international arena. Yet they keep acting very obstinately and cunningly. They keep talking "peace" while making war.

Our compatriots and fighters, therefore, must strengthen their unity, heighten their vigilance and stiffen their resolve to fight and to win, develop their strong points and make good their weaknesses, brave all hardships and sacrifice, fight without let-up and on all battlefields, in order to win still bigger victories.

With North and South Viet Nam being of one mind and consulting each other in wiping out the enemy to save the country, the U.S. aggressors' complete defeat is left in no doubt.

The liberation of our South Viet Nam compatriots is a certainty.

It is beyond any doubt that our Fatherland — Viet Nam — will enjoy complete independence and freedom, and will be peacefully reunified.

Forward!

My total triumph is an assurance double sure!
Please accept my cordial greetings and my "determination-to-win" salutations.

HO CHI MINH

VIETNAM COURIER

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1968

No 164

5th Year

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South Viet Nam Since May 4, 1968:

P.L.A.F. ATTACKS FLARE UP AGAIN

- Street Fighting in Many Quarters of Saigon
- A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out in Downtown Area
- 58 Towns and Urban Centres, 30 Airfields and Many Depots (Totalling 122 Enemy Military Bases and Positions) Stormed.

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North Viet Nam May 8, 1968:

2,900th U.S. PLANE DOWNED

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MINISTER XUAN THUY LEAVES FOR PARIS

MINISTER Xuan Thuy, representative of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, left Hanoi for Paris on May 7 for official talks with the representative of the U.S. Government scheduled for May 10, 1968.

Minister Xuan Thuy was accompanied by: Ho Van Lam, Ambassador, Adviser to the Minister; Nguyen Minh Vy, Adviser to the Minister; Nguyen Thanh Le, Adviser and Spokesman for the Minister; and Phan Hien, Adviser to the Minister.



Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh (right) seeing off Minister Xuan Thuy to Paris talks

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF Mr XUAN THUY

MR Xuan Thuy was born on September 2, 1912 into a family of patriots in the outskirts of Hanoi.

In the period prior to the August 1945 Revolution, as a staunch fighter for Viet Nam's independence and freedom, he was arrested and jailed many times by the then authorities.

After the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (September 2, 1945), he held the following offices:

— Deputy to the National

Assembly, Vice President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

— President Member and Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

— Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

— President of the Viet Nam Journalists' Association...

— He was head of the delegations of Vietnamese mas-

organizations to many international conferences and deputy head of the Delegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the 1968 Geneva Conference on Laos.

At present, he is Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party/ Central Committee, member of the President of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, deputy to the National Assembly, Minister of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF KARL MARX'S 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism, the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party issued instructions pointing to the tremendous successes achieved by revolution in the world and in Viet Nam since the founding of Marxism and since it has been following the correct Marxist-Leninist line.

"Withstanding all trials," the Polit Bureau said, "Marxism-Leninism has proved its vigorous vitality as an invincible weapon of the working class and oppressed people. It is the highest peak of human wisdom in the present era. It has become the ideology of thousands of millions on this earth and is guiding the worldwide struggle of the working class and toiling masses against imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism."

On May 3, 1968 Hanoi papers devoted almost the bulk of their space to articles on Marx and Marxism-Leninism.

Nhan Dan wrote in its editorial: "The working class and people of Viet Nam are deeply grateful to Karl Marx, the founder of scientific communism. The path from capitalism to Marxism-Leninism, on which embarked Comrade Ho Chi Minh, the first Vietnamese Communist, is also the path of national salvation which leads our people from darkness to light, the path on which our people have found the glowing truth and miraculous strength to win victory. Through nearly four decades of heroic struggle since its foundation, our Party has always remained unswervingly loyal to

ON THE EVE OF THE D.R.V.N. — U.S.A. OFFICIAL TALKS

THE May 1968 statement of the U.S. Military cut short the month-long U.S. military maneuver aimed at delaying contacts and talks between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.A. By suggesting a site—Paris, a date—May 9 or a few days thereafter, by appointing a well-known personality, Minister Khan Thuy, its representative, and by making known its desire to directly begin official talks with the U.S.A. without going through the stage of "contact" with the Government of the D.R.V.N. has given positive proof of its goodwill and love of peace. By its talks flummoxed the Johnson Administration, which drives into a corner, has been out of procrastinatory pretext.

However, by accepting the proposal of the D.R.V.N. Government, the American President in his May 3 statement thought it necessary to "send a cautionary note: this is only the very first step. There are many hazards and difficult days ahead." He reiterated the point of view as was presented in his T.V. statement to the Americans: March 31. In this speech Mr. Johnson declared that the role of the U.S. was to "provide a shield" behind which the Saigon garrison "can survive and develop." From being lightened, this shield will be strengthened by new contingents of G.I.'s and new war expenditures amounting to \$1.5 billion dollars. Mr. Johnson

THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

UP TO MAY 8, 1968

2,900 U.S. Planes Downed

THE 2,900th U.S. plane, a A4 Skyhawk, was shot down in Ha Tinh province on May 8, 1968 at 11.10 a.m.

Topping the list of provinces and areas which have downed the greatest number of enemy planes are Quang Binh (433), Nghe An (326), Thanh Hoa (271), Nam (262), Hai Phong (210). Four other areas have exceeded the 100 mark.

The last 100 planes were grounded within 82 days and included chiefly 3 F-4's, 1 F-105, 1 F-106, 1 F-107, 1 F-108, 1 F-109, 1 F-111, 1 F-112, 1 F-113, 1 F-114, 1 F-115, 1 F-116, 1 F-117, 1 F-118, 1 F-119, 1 F-120, 1 F-121, 1 F-122, 1 F-123, 1 F-124, 1 F-125, 1 F-126, 1 F-127, 1 F-128, 1 F-129, 1 F-130, 1 F-131, 1 F-132, 1 F-133, 1 F-134, 1 F-135, 1 F-136, 1 F-137, 1 F-138, 1 F-139, 1 F-140, 1 F-141, 1 F-142, 1 F-143, 1 F-144, 1 F-145, 1 F-146, 1 F-147, 1 F-148, 1 F-149, 1 F-150, 1 F-151, 1 F-152, 1 F-153, 1 F-154, 1 F-155, 1 F-156, 1 F-157, 1 F-158, 1 F-159, 1 F-160, 1 F-161, 1 F-162, 1 F-163, 1 F-164, 1 F-165, 1 F-166, 1 F-167, 1 F-168, 1 F-169, 1 F-170, 1 F-171, 1 F-172, 1 F-173, 1 F-174, 1 F-175, 1 F-176, 1 F-177, 1 F-178, 1 F-179, 1 F-180, 1 F-181, 1 F-182, 1 F-183, 1 F-184, 1 F-185, 1 F-186, 1 F-187, 1 F-188, 1 F-189, 1 F-190, 1 F-191, 1 F-192, 1 F-193, 1 F-194, 1 F-195, 1 F-196, 1 F-197, 1 F-198, 1 F-199, 1 F-200, 1 F-201, 1 F-202, 1 F-203, 1 F-204, 1 F-205, 1 F-206, 1 F-207, 1 F-208, 1 F-209, 1 F-210, 1 F-211, 1 F-212, 1 F-213, 1 F-214, 1 F-215, 1 F-216, 1 F-217, 1 F-218, 1 F-219, 1 F-220, 1 F-221, 1 F-222, 1 F-223, 1 F-224, 1 F-225, 1 F-226, 1 F-227, 1 F-228, 1 F-229, 1 F-230, 1 F-231, 1 F-232, 1 F-233, 1 F-234, 1 F-235, 1 F-236, 1 F-237, 1 F-238, 1 F-239, 1 F-240, 1 F-241, 1 F-242, 1 F-243, 1 F-244, 1 F-245, 1 F-246, 1 F-247, 1 F-248, 1 F-249, 1 F-250, 1 F-251, 1 F-252, 1 F-253, 1 F-254, 1 F-255, 1 F-256, 1 F-257, 1 F-258, 1 F-259, 1 F-260, 1 F-261, 1 F-262, 1 F-263, 1 F-264, 1 F-265, 1 F-266, 1 F-267, 1 F-268, 1 F-269, 1 F-270, 1 F-271, 1 F-272, 1 F-273, 1 F-274, 1 F-275, 1 F-276, 1 F-277, 1 F-278, 1 F-279, 1 F-280, 1 F-281, 1 F-282, 1 F-283, 1 F-284, 1 F-285, 1 F-286, 1 F-287, 1 F-288, 1 F-289, 1 F-290, 1 F-291, 1 F-292, 1 F-293, 1 F-294, 1 F-295, 1 F-296, 1 F-297, 1 F-298, 1 F-299, 1 F-300, 1 F-301, 1 F-302, 1 F-303, 1 F-304, 1 F-305, 1 F-306, 1 F-307, 1 F-308, 1 F-309, 1 F-310, 1 F-311, 1 F-312, 1 F-313, 1 F-314, 1 F-315, 1 F-316, 1 F-317, 1 F-318, 1 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ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

P.L.A.F. ATTACKS FLARE UP AGAIN

■ Street Fighting in Many Quarters of Saigon ■ A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out in Downtown Area ■ 58 Towns and Urban Centers, 30 Airfields and Many Depots (Totalling 122 Enemy Military Bases and Positions) Stormed.



P.L.A.F. MAIN ACTIONS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY

- a) Provincial capital
- b) — — — pounded by P.L.A.F.
- c) — — — attacked by infantry
- d) Provincial or district capital, or other locality
- e) — — — — — pounded
- f) — — — — — attacked by infantry
- g) Airfield
- h) Airfield pounded
- i) Airfield attacked by infantry
- j) Road
- k) Railway

THE offensive launched by the people's forces since the end of January last was vigorously stopped up in the week following Labour Day, chiefly after May 4. As announced in our last issue, at least 122 cities, towns, airfields, rear-bases, logistic bases, H.Q.'s and C.P.'s of the enemy were stormed or pounded by P.L.A.F. infantry and artillery. The map opposite will give an idea of the great activities of the people's forces.

IN Saigon and periphery, since the small hours of May 5 the P.L.A.F. rained shells on vital positions of the enemy war set-up such as the Directorate General of Police, administrative offices, the old and new harbours piled up with military goods, the T.V. and radio stations of the U.S. army. Infantry units supported by the local population penetrated into 7 out of 9 quarters of Saigon: Cholon—Gia Dinh.

An enemy Ranger battalion sent to a locality near Phu Tho racecourse (between the 5th and 6th town quarters) was wiped out by the P.L.A.F., who thus for the first time put out of action an enemy battalion in the city. Another para-battalion was routed on May 6 at an important crossroads in Cholon. As the puppet troops could not stand the onslaught of the P.L.A.F., the U.S. command hurriedly sent U.S. reinforcements to the city. Enemy tanks and artillery destroyed many town quarters, causing heavy losses in lives and property to the population. The general commanding the police of the puppet administration was seriously wounded while his substitute, a colonel, was killed—l.

Up to May 9, the battle was still raging in many quarters of the city. The P.L.A.F. held control of several quarters. The quarters in which the U.S. Embassy and U.S.I.S. are located were attacked on May 7.

In the suburbs, Tan Son Nhut airbase, stormed by the guerrillas on May 6 and 7, was closed to traffic and the colonel commanding it killed. West of Cholon, the radar station of Phu Lam was assaulted. On May 5, Nha Be, outer-harbour of Saigon, was shelled: two fuel depots were gutted by fire.

Northeast of Saigon, Bien Hoa—Long Binh, the most important logistic base of the U.S. in South Vietnam, came under P.L.A.F. fire.

16 km north of Saigon, a battalion of puppet Division 5 was decimated on the night of May 4.

Cu Chi and Dong Du townlets about 30 km northwest of Saigon and base of U.S. Division 25, was stormed on May 5 while Hoi Nghia provincial capital, 35 km west-northwest of Saigon, fell under the P.L.A.F. control.

IN the Mekong Delta one puppet battalion was wiped out, another badly mauled, and 13 vessels were sunk in an engagement with the P.L.A.F. on May 1 and 2 at 100 km south-west of Saigon. The P.L.A.F. hammered at many provincial capitals such as My Tho, Ban Tre, Vinh Long, Cao Lanh, Chao Doc, Moc Hoa and scores of district capitals and sub-sector C.P.'s. The U.S. base at Binh Duc, 6 km west of My Tho, was shelled on May 5 while a battalion of puppet Division 9 was

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